



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of Indiana*

*10 West Market Street
Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

*(317)226-6333
TDD (317)226-5438*

*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317)226-6125
Administration (317)226-5176
Civil (317)226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317)226-5953*

January 21, 2005

CONTACT PERSON:

Claudia Cummings
(317) 229-2477 office
(317) 590-7928 mobile

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**MILAN MAN SENTENCED FOR
FRAUD AND FIREARMS CRIMES**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that STEPHEN A HALL, 55, Milan, Indiana, was sentenced to 41 months imprisonment yesterday by U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton following his guilty plea to Mail Fraud, Wire Fraud, Tax Evasion, Money Laundering, Selling Firearms to Prohibited Persons and Selling Prohibited Weapons . This case was the result of a three year investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives and the Indiana State Excise Police.

Around 1997, Stephen A. Hall convinced Floyd Werner to invest in a coal mine from which Hall represented he had the rights to mine a substantial amount. Over the next two

-more-

years Werner invested approximately \$1,500,000 in the coal mining venture based on continuing representations by Hall regarding the mining venture, such as maps showing rights to mine coal and receipts for the purchase of coal mining equipment. Eventually, it came to light that Hall did not own the rights to mine any property that contained substantial amounts of coal, and had made little or no effort to even obtain the rights to mine coal. Instead, he had been converting Werner's investments to cash that was then untraceable.

During the investigation, it also came to light that Hall was selling firearms to individuals he knew had felony convictions. During one of these sales he also sold a silencer to a person he knew had a felony conviction.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Winfield D. Ong, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Hamilton also imposed three years supervised release following HALL's imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, HALL must make restitution in the amount of \$1,500,000.

###